

Iron County Register.

BY ELI D. AKE.

IRONTON, MISSOURI

THE GALS' VACASHUN TIME.

Thur's a los of 'scrubbin' gold' on about this time

You see, the gals are comin' hum from school to

summer here.

Will soon be prancin' down the hills beyond the

pasture dews.

They'll ruffle business here about and make the

hull place ring.

I swan! I like to see 'em come, I like to hear

'em sing.

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several cars attached to it in order to carry the large crowd back into the city. Billy slipped around and sat down on the front step in the shadow, and not until he had fully started did he find out that it was not his car, but "the car" who had charge of the car. The latter hadn't seen Billy, and the boy made himself as small as possible in the shadow, hoping he would not be seen.

Glancing back, "the car" fastened the front door of the car with its strong catch on the outside, and then took from his pocket a bottle of some liquid that sparkled in the moonlight. Placing this on the little stand in front of the car, he turned on the switch, controlling the current, he took several strips of some kind of metal and bending them so that one end went down into the bottle while the other went down among the buttons of the switch, he rubbed his hands together in glee, and said to himself, as he quivered with excitement:

"Now for the test! I know I am right, but I must prove it to myself! What are a few lives in comparison with an eternal truth?"

"I will give the crank one notch, and make connection with the circuit. Now the speed ought to be four times as great as it is usually with one notch, for there is four times the amount of current. Ah! So it is! We are going as fast as if I had turned on four notches instead of one. Now I will put on another notch; and if my rule of geometrical progression is right, the speed of current will be, not eight times what it usually is on one notch, but eight times what it usually is on two notches. See how we fly! I'm right! I'm right! Now for another notch to make our speed sixteen times the ordinary speed of three notches!"

The car seemed to be simply flying. Was it really going as fast as it seemed, or was it simply going at its usual speed down a smooth grade? Billy was fearfully frightened, and so were the passengers. Every face grew white with fear at the horrible laugh of the motor-man, and women and children screamed as they realized the danger that seemed to threaten.

The track was perfectly straight for miles, but at the rate at which they were going they would soon cover it, and right at the curve was the crossing of a trunk line of railroad, while upon the valley could be seen a train coming swiftly down towards the same crossing.

When the man saw this he sent forth another yell of laughter and exclaimed: "Heaven aid me! Now for the supreme test! Five notches will lift these cars bodily into the air and we will clear that train at a bound. How lucky that I happened to find the motor!"

His shrill scream attracted the attention of those in the cars to the certain death at the railroad crossing, and in rushing back to the trailer or the next car, or in the effort to jump off, a man stumbled and caught hold of the trolley rope, thus pulling the trolley wheel from the wire and shutting off the current. With a yell of rage "the car," supposing it done intentionally, grasped the heavy steel switch-bar, unfastened the door, bounded into the car, brained with one blow the man who had grasped the rope, and then readjusted the trolley-wheel. No one dared lay hands upon the maniac, with his terrible weapon.

Then it was that Billy saw his chance. He had been paralyzed by the remarkable proceedings of "the car," but now he slipped up, in the slanting door, fastened it with the catch, then grasped the crank and turned off all current, at the same time accidentally knocking off that strange bottle of liquid as he did so. Then he put on the brakes, using all his boyish strength. The momentum that had been imparted by the car carried it forward without any perceptible diminution of speed; the old flagman on the crossing was frantically waving his lantern to both trains, and "the car" with the steel bar was hammering down the door in a frenzy of rage as he broke the door of precious liquid broken and lost.

Billy soon saw that he would not be able to stop the car with the brakes, but before he could take any other action the maniac was through the door and upon him. Grasping the boy by the throat, he held him up and shook him as a terror would a rat, and then hurled him down upon the track in front of the flying car.

Just at this instant the car stopped; and with such suddenness that it threw everyone in the cars forward with fearful force, hurled the maniac over the front of the car, started backward, jumped the trolley, and landed with a steeled there, only a few feet from

I secured the broken bottle, because I felt that I would give almost anything to be able to make a chemical analysis of its contents; but there was not a drop of the strange fluid left. The strips of metal I found to be aluminum, gold, and something else, but the third one was lost. If this wild dreamer really had discovered some secret method of increasing the force of the electrical current at practically no expense, the secret is gone with him into the darkness of an asylum. I secured access to him in his cell, but he has no lucid intervals now, and probably never will have.

One of the strange features connected with the case is the fact that the metropolitan papers treated as an ordinary and unimportant accident. An interesting article could have been



THE MANIC HURLED HIM UPON THE TRACK.

made for any paper by giving the facts as they happened, and giving "the car's" real name. He is a nephew of one of the money kings of the east, and for awhile was nearly as bold an operator on the New York floor as his uncle. Diving into electricity, he devoted several years to it with the result stated.

"What is his name?"

"I would rather not say."

H. W. C.

THE DEATH WATCH.

A Small Beetle Caught in the Act of Making Mysterious Sounds.

There is a more or less clearly defined thread of superstition running through the minds of most people, and not a few who have a rational basis in involuntary tickings, especially during the hours of darkness, have been unable to prevent their imagination leading them back to the stories told in childhood of the dreaded omens of the death watch beetle. It precedes a death in the family. It is now well known that the ticking is produced by an insect, and a Parisian chemist has not only taken the trouble to investigate the subject thoroughly, but has actually caught the insect to take all the current I can give it."

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COURTING IN MINORCA.

The Ticklish Business Done in a Very Old Customs' Office.

Of old customs' there is naturally greater survival in Ibiza than in Majorca and Minorca, which have closer intercourse with the continent. The Ibizans are in bad repute as law-abiding people. They prefer, like the Corsicans, to take the law into their own hands. Bunches of lawbreakers are common among them, and when a peasant has thus committed homicide he seldom chooses to wait for the judge of assize to condemn him. He evades the island and finds immunity in Algiers or on the continent. The fair sex, of course, the chief cause of the most fatal quarrels on the island.

To tell the truth, the local methods of wooing a girl seem well adapted to provoke irritation. She receives her suitors en masse. Sunday evenings are the conventional visiting times. The damsel then takes up her station in the paternal porch and waits for the young men who have conceived a fancy for her. Each youth has the privilege of sitting by her alone for a limited number of minutes. He must make the most of this opportunity, for the aspirants will not tolerate an extension of the time. If he does not get after awhile and make way for a successor his rivals show unmistakable impatience.

Nor can one wonder that now and again, when the maiden is peculiarly attractive, the youths find this formal system of wooing a little tedious. Through unseemly, it is not surprising that they should quarrel and fight with each other. But whatever happens the girl has a stereotyped part to play. She may interpose to prevent bloodshed in her very presence, otherwise it is dangerous to the man for his temper. Through unseemly, it is not surprising that they should quarrel and fight with each other. But whatever happens the girl has a stereotyped part to play. She may interpose to prevent bloodshed in her very presence, otherwise it is dangerous to the man for his temper.

MISSOURI DEMOCRACY.

Stone, of Vernon County, Nominat-ed for Governor.

O'Meara, of St. Louis, Named for Lieutenant-Governor.

St. Louis, Mo., July 19.—The Missouri Democracy, at its annual convention, held at the St. Louis Hotel, today nominated its candidates for the coming year.

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